

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Mail Facilities in the Ch'ongjin Area, North Korea	DATE DISTR.	22 June 1955
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25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The central Ch'ongjin post office at Haebang-dong (EB6726) has under its jurisdiction four third-class post offices, which are in Singjin-dong, In'gok-dong (EB6627), Songp'yong-dong (EB6324) and Sunam-dong (EB6525). The central post office has 25-30 employees, while the third-class post office has 18-20. According to postal regulations as of March 1955, the post offices handle telegraphic and regular money orders, parcel post up to eight kilograms in weight, telegrams, and telephone calls. There is a registered mail service, and newspapers are distributed.¹

Postal Rates in Won²

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 2. Regular mail | 10 |
| Postal cards | 5 |
| Registered mail | 40 |
| Telephone calls | |
| (within Ch'ongjin) | 10 |
| (Ch'ongjin to P'yongyang) | 200 |
| Telegrams (per character) | 3 |

25X1

Air Mail

3. The air mail system in North Korea services only the cities near air-fields. The bulk of air mail comes from foreign countries and includes important official mail, although some ordinary mail is handled.

Army Mail

4. Army mail is handled in the same way as civilian mail except that postage is free and letters are addressed to an APO number.³

Foreign Mail

5. Most mail from foreign countries is sent by air with the exception of

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25X1

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

-2-

mail from China, which is said to be carried by train. According to postal regulations, mail may be exchanged only with Communist China and other Communist states including Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

25X1

Posting and Delivery Facilities

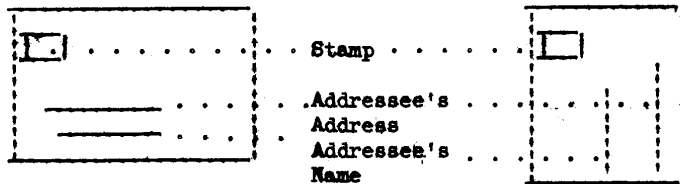
7. In Ch'ongjin and other cities the central post office is responsible for collecting the mail from the railroad station once daily. The mail is distributed to the appropriate sub-station post office, which in turn employs four or five mailmen to deliver the mail to the proper address. Mailmen usually walk but they may use a bicycle to deliver telegrams. Packages must be collected by the addressee at the post office. Qin post offices collect and deliver mail in the same manner as city post offices. Letters may be posted at the post office or in mail collection boxes on the streets. Letters to foreign countries are posted in the same manner as local mail.⁵

Methods of Addressing Envelopes

8. Any type of envelope, including homemade, are used in North Korea. The following are examples of addressed envelopes:

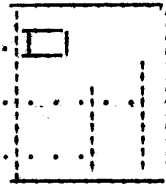
Example No. 1

Front

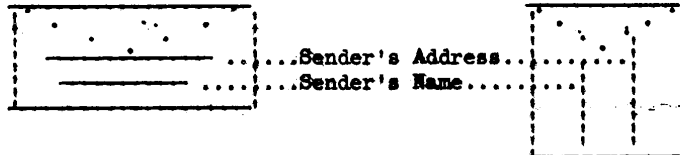


Example No. 2

Front



Back



Back



Example No. 1 is the most generally used system of addressing envelopes. All North Koreans write their letters in Hangul, but it is permissible to use foreign languages in addressing letters to Communist countries.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

-3-

Mail Inspection

9. Each post office has a mail inspection section, which is responsible for seeing that envelopes are properly stamped and addressed. The date received and the post office are stamped on the envelope.⁶

Employment in the Postal Service

10. Although there is no specific prerequisite of membership in the Korean Labor Party (KLP) for employment in the postal service, practically all employees of the service are KLP members. A potential employee must submit a personal history statement, a description of former employment, and a letter of recommendation to the staff director of the post office.
11. Staff directors are sent from the Staff Bureau in P'yongyang and function as investigators. Staff directors investigate the work as well as the loyalties and political sympathies of the employees. They may discharge any employee except the postmaster and the section chiefs. They may induce the dismissal of even these officials by reporting any derogatory information about them to the Staff Bureau.

1. Comment.

there was only one post office in operation in Ch'ongjin. There was no registered mail service at that time.

25X1

- 2.

- 3.

army mail was delivered free.

25X1

4. Comment.

P'yongyang announced the initiation of this service.

Radio

25X1
25X1

- 5.

Comments

25X1

6. Prior to the Armistice this section also censored mail, but this function was withdrawn by KIM Il-sung after the cease fire.
7. Every government office has a staff director, who is sent from the Staff Bureau in P'yongyang. Some of the larger government offices such as the Gun People's Committees may have four or five of these staff directors.

25X1

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